Price Stabilisation of Tobacco

4432. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a detailed plan for the price stabilisation of tobacco in the interest of farmers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) to what extent will price stabilisation depend on market forces in the long run;

(d) whether a number of options have been tried in this regard; and

(e) the details of strategy proposed to bring about price stabilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Price stabilisation is resorted to when market forces are not able to determine the price.

(d) and(e) While administered price is one of the options that has been tried, one strategy being proposed is creation of a stabilization fund contributed and controlled by growers themselves with apppropriate managerial assistance.

Registration of Farmers with Tobacco Board

4433. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of farmers who are registered with the Tobacco Board all over the country ;

(b) the break-up of such registration State-wise;

(c) the corresponding production of tobacco in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 State-wise;

(d) wether it is a fact that the Tobacco Board has not been pro-active in protecting the interests of the tobacco sector , and

(e) if so, the reasons for such laxity?